Polluting units in Delhi

† *189. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware the polluting units are still operating in Delhi:

(b) if so, the details in this regard:

(c) the number of polluting units out of these which are in the public and in the private sector, separately; and

(d) by when all the polluting units would be shut down?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Most of the industrial units located in Delhi are in the private sector and fall in the category of small scale units. There are four large power plants in the public sector. As per information available, there are a total of 1,26,218 industrial units out of which 97,411 are located In non-conforming areas and remaining 28,807 in conforming areas. 39,000 units have been identified as polluting units. Till now 4725 polluting units have been closed. As for the remaining units in conforming areas the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has so far issued public notice to all such industrial units/establishments to obtain consent to operate under the Water (Preventation and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

Killing of Wild Animals

*190. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been an increasing trend in the killing of Wild animals in forests in the country for the last three years;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of cases filed against poachers for killing of tigers, leopards and panthers in the country during the last five years; and

(c) the details of steps proposed to be taken by Government to protect the Wild animals?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Although no specific increasing trend is discernible in the number of wild animals killed during last three years, there has been increased detection of cases of illegal hunting of tigers and leopards.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Hunting of all wild animals is banned under the provisions of Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972. The steps taken for effective implementation of the Act are as under—

(1) *State leve/:*

(i) State level and District level coordination committees have been set up in several States to prevent poaching all illegal trade in wildlife.

(ii) State Wildlife Authorities carry out regular checking of the stock of dealers of animal products and birds.

(2) National level:

(i) Government of India has set up Regional and Sub-regional Office for wildlife preservation in major export and trade centres of the country to prevent smuggling of wild animals and their products.

(ii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders. Anti poaching efforts are being coordinated with INTERPOL.

(iii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz. Project Tiger, Project Elephant, Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries and Eco-development around Protected areas for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure of the States for providing effective protection to wild animals. Financial assistance is, in particular, being provided for raising 'Strike Forces' and providing arms to the protection staff for combating the organised poachers. Assistance is also provided for giving rewards to the informers for eliciting information about poachers and smugglers.

(iv) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary, Environment & Forests, Government of India, for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) Export of wild animals and their derivative is prohibited under EXIM policy.

(vi) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching all illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) *International level:*

(i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range Countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

Forest cover in Kerala

*191. SHRI. CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the forest cover in Kerala during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that the forest cover in that State is decreasing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it has been brought to the notice of Government that there are large scale depletion of rain forests in Idukki district of Kerala by way of encroachments;

(e) if so, whether the Central Government have made any independent assessment of this situation;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken to remedy the situation?